

Prior to calculation of the filling fee and prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5 and 12 as follows:

Claim 5, line 1: please delete "3 or 4," and please substitute --3,--.

Claim 12, line 1: please delete "10 or 11," and please substitute --10,--.

Please add new claims 14-16 as follows:

--14. Apparatus according to claim 4, characterized by the following features:

- a) during transport along the horizontal conveying path (28, 29), the packs (10) of the top pack row (22) can be conveyed in the upward direction such that the packs (10) of the top pack row (22) can be conveyed over a heating element - heating plate (33) - assigned to the packs (10) of the bottom pack row (23),

- b) the heating plate (33) has an obliquely directed run-on surface (40) for the packs (10) of the top pack row (22),
- c) the run-on surface (40) extends across the full (transverse) extent of the packs (10),
- d) the run-on surface (40) has an oblique edge (47) as a boundary.

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15. Apparatus according to Claim 11, characterized in that the heating element (71) is of multilayered construction, heating wires (73), on the one hand, and a temperature sensor (76), on the other hand, being positioned between a plurality of mats (74, 75, 77), and the layers, namely metal plate (72) and mats (74, 75, 77), being connected to one another to form a unit by adhesive bonding or vulcanization.

16. Apparatus according to Claim 15, characterized in that the unit-design heating element (71) is positioned within a recess (70) of the heating plate (32, 33) by way of a moldable embedding compound (79), in particular made of silicone.--